

DEDICATION OF ZAMPERINI FIELD SATURDAY TO MARK ACCEPTANCE OF AIRPORT

Official dedication by the City of Torrance of the Army-developed Lomita flight strip as "Zamperini Field," will take place on Saturday, Pearl Harbor day, at 11 a.m., with high government and military officials joining local government and film celebrities in paying honor to Capt. Louis Zamperini, who brought international fame to Torrance with his athletic and war exploits.

Captain Zamperini and his bride, the former Cynthia Applewhite, his parents and other members of his family will be in the spotlight of an event of national recognition as Torrance joins with the Army air forces in paying respect to the Torrance man who survived a score of "deaths," was officially declared dead, and who came back the same happy and humorous "Louie" he was before he answered Uncle Sam's call to the colors and went off to war in 1941.

Missing and believed for months to have perished, Captain Zamperini has a story of heroism and a will to live and serve, extending from the day of his disappearance in a plane crash at sea, May 27, 1943, to his recovery on Sept. 5, 1945, capturing the most vivid imagination. It is the subject of one book, many stories, and an official history being published by the Army Air Forces Personnel Narrative Division.

Torrance decided, by popular acclaim, to have its municipal airport, when acquired, named "Zamperini Field." This was long before Louie "returned to life." With his recovery from Japanese imprisonment and return to his home in Torrance, the appeal to honor Zamperini by giving the airfield his name, persisted, and on Nov. 26 the City Council concurred in a request of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to so designate the field.

Dec. 7 was set as the time for dedication. Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. officially will proclaim the air strip as the property of the City of Torrance by virtue of the perpetual permit granted the city by the Federal government, and will designate it as "Zamperini Field" on authority of the City Council's resolution of Nov. 26.

Members of the City Council and the Torrance Aviation Commission, including Chairman Reed H. Parkin, will be on the platform to be erected on a taxi strip adjoining the flight strip for the ceremony, to attest the action and honor Zamperini.

Captain Zamperini himself will be present to receive the honor and respond, and he will be accompanied by members of his family and friends.

The Army air forces will be represented by Brig. Gen. John F. Doyle, deputy commanding general 12th Air Force, who will fly in for the ceremonies in his own light bomber, accompanied by Lt. Col. H. G. Eepler III, public relations officer for the 12th Air Force. Col. Roger Q. Williams, Torrance resident and famed pioneer in military and civilian aviation, will be present.

Lovely Martha Vickers, Warner Brothers actress who only recently was elevated to stardom by her studio, "broke a date" for Saturday, the studios announced, to be on hand for the dedication.

Miss Vickers played the amorous sister of Lauren Bacall, in the picture "The Big Sleep" starring Humphrey Bogart. She also appeared opposite Torrance's own Rosemary DeCamp Shidder in the Warner hit "Two Guys From Milwaukee." Her first starring role will be with Dane Clark in "That Way With Women."

David G. Logg, Civil Aeronautics Authority airport disposal engineer for Southern California, will be there as will representatives of the War Assets Administration, the United States Engineers and others.

County Supervisors' Chairman Raymond V. Darby, also an aviation enthusiast, will participate.

Close personal friends of Captain Zamperini, Robert L. Levelen, who handled his affairs during athletic exploits of a decade ago, and Miss Lute Fraser, historian of his accomplishments and experiences, will be on hand by special request of the hero. Both are employed by the Torrance Herald, where they have had a guiding hand in the preparation of all releases regarding his athletic and military career.

An informal luncheon for guests of honor will follow at the Palos Verdes Country Club.

Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor day, was selected as the day for official dedication of the field due to the fact that it will coincide with the release of a

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Lieut. Sykes In Command Of Navy Supply Annex

Lt. E. G. Hansen, S. C., U.S.N., retired yesterday as commander of the Torrance annex of the U.S. Navy Supply Depot at the Harbor, and was relieved by Lt. R. F. Sykes, S. C., U.S.N.

Lieutenant Hansen, who has been stationed at the Torrance base since it was opened on June 19, 1945, will go aboard A.P.A. 88, the U.S.S. Fillmore, a transport auxiliary, as supply and disbursing officer, it was announced. He became commanding officer of the Torrance base on May 22, 1944.

Lieutenant Sykes has been stationed for some time at the Navy Supply Depot at San Pedro in charge of the provision department.

Lund Deplores Failure Of People To Support Community Chest Drives

Russell Lund, general chairman of the Torrance drive of the area Community Chest, this week deplored the lack of support given the "152 campaigns in one" now in progress.

"Reports from around the state indicate that a good many cities and towns have been having difficulty meeting their Community Chest quotas. This is to be regretted. The work of the Community Chest, it need hardly be said, is far too vital to be handicapped by insufficient funds."

"But deploring the lack of proper support for the Community Chest will not help fill it."

"The question should be asked, why are quotas not being easily met. The postwar letdown among people in general could be cited as one cause. The high cost of living undoubtedly has its effect also. But probably the biggest cause is that more and more we are getting away from the idea of a single annual drive for charitable and welfare purposes."

"More and more special drives are being launched. The worthiness of these special campaigns is not questioned, but the natural reaction on the part of the public is that it can't be paying out money continually for one cause or another no matter how deserving they are. In other words, the average man's pocketbook can only stand so much."

"In the Los Angeles Area Community Chest drive, we are doing our part in the reestablishment of the single-campaign practice under which all charities and welfare organizations will receive a proper share."



TORRANCE ENTRY IN ROSE PARADE . . . Here is a drawing by Joe Kalina, of Doak Aircraft Co., of the design selected for the 20-30 Club entry, on behalf of the City of Torrance, in the New Year's Day Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena. The design of the float carries out the theme of "Admission Day,"

Christmas Decorations Completed

Torrance Christmas decorations, in the process of installation during the past week, will be completed and lighted for the enjoyment of the community tomorrow night.

So announced J. T. McCrary Jr., chairman of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Christmas decorations committee, who said that some \$200 remains to be subscribed to the fund necessary for financing the project. Some of the decorations were lighted as early as Tuesday night, but the whole project's completion was not scheduled until tomorrow, according to McCrary, after the garlands and center bells are installed throughout the central business district.

Assistance in the installation of the pole decorations came from Floyd DeVore, of Devereux Electric Co., and Staver, who worked all day Sunday with a DeVore truck on the task. Joe Webb and his city electricians worked throughout the week in installing the decorations' lighting system.

McCrary said that of the \$2,300 needed for the entire Christmas decorations project, \$2,100 had been subscribed and that he hoped the additional \$200 would be forthcoming at once to complete the job.

NAME PERPETUATED
With the official dedication of the newly acquired Torrance airport, developed by the Army as Lomita flight strip, the name of Capt. Louis Zamperini, athlete and war hero, is being perpetuated.

Community Chest Drive Total Is 41 Percent

Additional contributions brought in from Torrance teams in the Community Chest's annual appeal for 152 Red Feather agencies have brought totals here to \$7,545, the aggregate of 1,208 gifts, or 41 percent of the \$18,364 goal, it is announced by Russell Lund, chairman.

The campaign is far behind the average of cities associated in the campaign, reports made to Lund showing an average percentage of more than 65 percent with more than a half dozen districts already over the top.

Fast progress in the appeal has been hampered by lack of necessary volunteers, according to Lund, who says that the men and women who have volunteered for the community service and support for the veterans' health, welfare and youth agencies are doing excellent work individually.

"This petitioning was in protest to the formation of a municipal water district which includes the geologically described West Basin area and which issue comes to special election in January.

County Water District Plan Here Rejected

Petitions seeking the formation of a county waterworks district for the Dominguez area were rejected by the Board of Supervisors last week, acting on a recommendation by R. E. Shoner, county chief mechanical engineer.

The area of the proposed district included all county territory east of Normandie ave. and north of Wilmington.

In making the rejection motion Supervisor Raymond V. Darby called the attention of his colleagues to the fact that Dominguez is included in the boundary of the proposed West Basin municipal water district, formation of which is to be decided at an election previously scheduled by the supervisors for January 14 next.

In his written recommendation Shoner merely said that setting up of the waterworks district "would not be to the advantage of the community."

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DRAFTED FOR THIRD TERM . . . Protesting that he was "framed" into accepting the presidency of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, over his vigorous protests, Reed H. Parkin (right center) is shown receiving the gavel from Director Grover Whyte (left center) at the other directors: Chas. T. Rippey, I. Washer, Chas. V. Jones, Charles Gotts, the

Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler, Dean L. Sears, Robert I. Plomert Jr. and Executive Secretary Blaine Walker. The group were guests of President Parkin at a dinner at the Jonathan Club, Los Angeles, Monday evening, at which time the officers for 1947 were chosen. (Photo by Lee Weinstein.)

Plaza Del Amo Flood Water Menace Solved

Drainage problems at Torrance elementary school grounds seem to have been eliminated with the reconstruction of Plaza del Amo, just southwest of the school, according to City Engineer G. M. Jain.

Grade changes have caused most of the flood water from the Navy supply depot property and other areas in that vicinity to drain down Plaza del Amo to Arlington ave. Formerly they passed directly over the school grounds causing considerable inconvenience to children and rendering the grounds useless for some period.

Jain said that completion of the job has been delayed by recent rains.

He said that the major project for the city street department is that of 203rd st., in the Pueblo built-up area. The City Council allowed \$1,400 for materials for the job. The next job will be that of Bailey drive and Hickman drive, North Torrance.

DAUGHTER BORN TO COOKS

Police Officer Carmel Cook last night at 10:22 o'clock called the Torrance Herald and announced: "Stop the presses—my wife just gave birth to a daughter weighing seven pounds two ounces," and added, "I want her listed in this week's edition!"

The announcement is unique inasmuch as the child was born just one-day short of her three-year-old brother's birthday, Mr. and Mrs. Cook live at 1221 Madrid ave. The new birth marks the third for the Cooks, as their eldest, a girl, is five years old.

REED H. PARKIN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF TORRANCE CHAMBER FOR THIRD YEAR

Drafted over his vigorous protests that some other director should have the honor, Reed H. Parkin was reelected president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Monday evening by unanimous vote of the eight other directors. He will begin his third year as head of the civic organization on January 1.

Other Chamber of Commerce officers elected were Charles V. Jones and Chas. T. Rippey, vice presidents; Dean L. Sears, treasurer, and Blaine Walker, executive secretary. Other directors comprising the nine-man board are R. I. Plomert Jr., I. Washer, Grover C. Whyte, Charles Gotts and the Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler.

All were guests of President Parkin at a dinner at the Jonathan club following the selection of officers.

President Parkin's reluctance to accept another term was swept away when Director Whyte presented him with an orchid (for Mrs. Parkin) and the traditional Chamber of Commerce gavel which had been engraved, "Reed H. Parkin, President, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, 1945-1946-1947."

"The Chamber has come a long way under your leadership," said Whyte. "We can all remember the handful of civilian men and women who reorganized the Chamber back in 1945. We met first in the little back room of the building at Post and Sartori. But in these two years the Chamber has won the respect of the entire community and its membership includes a good-sized cross-section of the community business, professional and industrial life."

"The Chamber now is regarded as the watchdog, protecting the business and property owner against objectionable or injurious legislation, and it is the sparkplug of many worthwhile civic improvements."

"I need only cite the City Charter, the City Manager plan, the advancement that has been made in getting new home subdivisions started and the substantial new industries, such as American Radiator and Standard Sanitary, American Rock Wool, as examples of activities that have been fostered and supported by your Chamber of Commerce," Whyte stated.

"Likewise, when the objectionable parking meters and excessively high business licenses were proposed, it was to the Chamber that the public and business interests turned to head up the movement to correct this harmful legislation," Whyte concluded.

In accepting the presidency for another year, Parkin said he never liked to "quit a job until he had finished it," and with the help of the other directors and Chamber members he would endeavor to bring the Municipal Airport and the City Manager plan to a successful conclusion during the coming year.

"One of the prime objectives of the Chamber has been to secure more houses for our residents. Now that several substantial residential subdivisions are either under construction or to be started immediately, I feel that this problem is being solved," said Parkin.

Service Station Permit Granted On Airport Land

Community Airports, Inc., came in for another airing at the City Planning Commission meeting Tuesday night, when residents of North Torrance protested further improvements on the property, but the airport interests emerged victorious.

A petition for construction of a gasoline service station at Prairie ave. and Redondo Beach blvd. was granted over the protest of Ed Saul and E. W. Blackwood. The station would be on airport property. Col. William Fox, president of Community Airports, Inc., and director (now on military leave) of the County Regional Planning Commission, appeared in behalf of the application and was met with opposition of Saul and Blackwood, who admitted they were not necessarily against the service station, but they wanted the airport itself removed as a nuisance. They contended that granting the service station permit merely gave the airport owners a greater "hold" on the development.

Otto B. Willett, member of the commission, pointed out that the airport is there legally sanctioned, and probably will remain, and a majority of the planning body stated there was no reason why the gasoline station should not be permitted.

Torrance Youth Succumbs From Auto Injuries

Arnold Gay Lopez, 13-year-old Torrance youth, early Saturday morning died of death from deep cuts received when thrown against the windshield of his father's car, following a collision with another vehicle at a fog-enshrouded intersection in Redondo Beach.

The youth, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Lopez, 18120 Bailey dr., was in the front seat of his father's car when at Beryl ave. and Rindge Lane Carey E. Groves, 104 S. Irena ave., Redondo Beach, turned from Redondo Beach and collided with the Lopez machine, police reports indicate.

The father took the boy in another car, driven by Katherine Bondar, Hermosa Beach. In search of the Torrance Memorial hospital, but due to the density of the fog they returned to the scene of the accident and called the South Bay ambulance from a service station at Dominguez st. and Hawthorne boulevard, police said.

During this time, it was reported, young Lopez died profusely.

He was pronounced dead by doctors upon his arrival at Torrance Memorial hospital. It was revealed that the youth's jugular vein had been severed in the mishap.

A coroner's inquest into the death Tuesday resulted in seven members of the jury of eight fixing the blame for the tragedy upon Groves. The eighth jurymen held that, under the circumstances, fault should be shared by both drivers.

The youthful Lopez would have been 14 years of age Dec. 11.

Rosary was recited Tuesday in the Glade L. White chapel, Hermosa Beach. Mass was read Wednesday morning. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Lopez, and sisters Henrietta and Janette Lopez. Interment was in Holy Cross cemetery.

Cost Estimates For No. Torrance Sewer Line Asked

Estimates of the cost of constructing a sewer trunk line in 182nd st. from the present trunk line in Arlington ave. to Hawthorne blvd. are being prepared by City Engineer G. M. Jain for presentation to County Sanitation District No. 5 and the City Council, Councilman W. H. Tolson revealed yesterday.

The trunk line is desired by County Sanitation District No. 5 for the purpose of providing service to the county area west of Hawthorne blvd., it was said, and sharing the cost of the construction will be the county, the state and the city through matching funds and owners of property one-half mile each side of the trunk line will have access to the lines.

AT KERBER HOME
Harold Kerber, student at University of California, spent the Thanksgiving holiday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kerber here.